

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 15060 01 OF 02 171756Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 MC-02 DRC-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 /150 W

----- 000006

R 171744Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8121

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15060

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW, XF

SUBJECT: FRG PRESS ON MID-EAST WAR

SUMMARY: OCTOBER 17 EDITIONS OF ALL MAJOR DAILIES
CARRY LEAD EDITORIALS ON SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST WITH
MANY FOCUSING THEIR COMMENT ON US DECISION TO RESUPPLY
ISRAEL AND ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S REMARKS AT OCTOBER 15
MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY. ALL RESPONSIBLE COMMENTATORS
EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING AND APPROVAL FOR US RESUPPLY DE-
CISION, SEEING IN IT A RESPONSE FORCED BY MASSIVE
SOVIET ARMS DELIVERIES TO ARABS AND A NECESSARY STEP TO
PREVENT SHIFT IN MID-EAST BALANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. DIETER SCHROEDER IN THE SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG SEES
RISK OF A SHIFT IN MIDDLE EASTERN BALANCE OF POWER WHICH
US CANNOT POSSIBLY ACCEPT. ISRAEL'S INABILITY TO RE-
PEAT PERFORMANCE OF 1967 BY STRIKING IMMEDIATE CRUSHING
BLOW HAS RAISED SPECTER OF A WAR OF ATTRITION, FROM
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 15060 01 OF 02 171756Z

WHICH ISRAEL WILL CERTAINLY NOT EMERGE AS SHINING VICTOR.

CONSEQUENCE WOULD BE A SHIFT IN THE BALANCE WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED AT LATEST IN 1956 AND WHICH HAS DEFINED THE INTERESTS OF THE GREAT POWERS IN THE AREA EVER SINCE. THE SOVIET UNION--WHETHER DELIBERATELY OR AS RESULT

OF ITS OWN POLICY OF MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE ARAB

CAUSE WAS APPARENTLY WILLING TO LET SUCH A SHIFT TAKE PLACE. BUT THE US, AS PRESIDENT NIXON HAS NOW MADE

CLEAR,CANNOT PERMIT THIS TO HAPPEN, SCHROEDER GOES ON, PRESIDENT NIXON'S "REFERENCE TO US INTERVENTION IN THE LEBANON CRISIS OF 1958 AND IN THE 1970 SYRIAN-JORDANIAN DISPUTE OVER HUSSEIN'S EXPULSION OF THE PALESTINIANS IS A CLEAR WARNING, ADDRESSED TO MOSCOW AND THE ARABS, NOT TO VIOLATE AMERICA'S INTERESTS IN THE NEAR EAST." THESE INTERESTS REST ON THE "INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY" OF ALL NEAR EASTERN STATES--I.E., INCLUDING ISRAEL. MOSCOW AND CAIRO UNQUESTIONABLY RECALL THAT BEHIND THE US MOVES OF 1958 AND 1970 THERE STANDS THE EISENHOWER DOCTRINE OF 1957 WHICH THREATENS THE POSSIBILITY OF A US MILITARY INTERVENTION AND WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN REVOKED. GIVEN THIS FACT, THERE CAN BE NO LACK OF CLARITY ABOUT PRESIDENT NIXON'S WORDS. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO, SCHROEDER STATES, WITH SHARP PRACTICE OR WITH SABRE RATTLING. RATHER, BOTH THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS AND THE RESUPPLY OPERATION ARE A REMINDER TO THE SOVIETS THAT DETENTE POLICY CAN ONLY BE DURABLE IF BOTH SUPER-POWERS RESPECT THEIR SPHERES OF INFLUENCE.

2. LEFT-LEANING FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU, IN COMMENTARY BY WERNER HOLZER, MAKES ESSENTIALLY THE SAME POINTS WITH REGARD TO US ACTIONS AND INTERESTS BUT POINTS OUT THAT SOVIET UNION, IF ONE ASSUMES THAT IT DID NOT WANT AN OUTBREAK OF HOT WAR, ALSO FACES PROBLEM OF AVOIDING A SHIFT IN POWER BALANCE AND AN INTERNATIONAL DISGRACE SUCH AS WENT WITH 1967 DISASTER. PROSPECT OF REPETITION OF THAT EVENT COULD FORCE USSR TO MASSIVE DIRECT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BONN 15060 01 OF 02 171756Z

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BONN 15060 02 OF 02 171754Z

45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 MC-02 DRC-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 /150 W

----- 131060

R 171744Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8122

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15060

INTERVENTION JUST AS A DIRECT THREAT TO ISRAEL'S
EXISTENCE WOULD FORCE US TO INTERVENE DIRECTLY. BOTH
GREAT POWERS ARE SUPPLYING ARMS TO THE RESPECTIVE SIDES
SO AS TO PRECLUDE DISRUPTION OF BALANCE THAT WOULD ENTAIL
DIRECT US-USSR CONFRONTATION. PROBLEM IS, HOLZER SAYS,
THAT WAR MACHINES OF THE SIZE NOW OPERATING IN THE
MIDDLE EAST, ONCE SET IN MOTION, CAN GET OUT OF CONTROL.

3. DIETER CYCON, WRITING IN DIE WELT, SEES PRESIDENT
NIXON'S STATEMENTS AS A "HINT AT AN ULTIMATE POSSIBILITY"
DESIGNED IN PART TO DISPEL ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE US COM-
MITMENT THAT MAY HAVE ARISEN, EITHER IN THE SOVIET
UNION OR THE US ITSELF, DURING THE FIRST DAYS OF THE
WAR AS A RESULT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S "ALL TOO
DISTANCED" OBSERVATIONS. IN CONCRETE TERMS, CYCON SAYS,
THE PRESIDENT IS DOUBTLESS NOT CONSIDERING MORE THAN
ADEQUATE DELIVERIES OF ARMS. CYCON ASSUMES THAT SOVIET
STATEMENTS ABOUT "EVERY KIND OF SUPPORT" FOR THE ARAB
CAUSE SERVE THE SAME PURPOSE ON THEIR SIDE AND THAT THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BONN 15060 02 OF 02 171754Z

SOVIETS AT PRESENT HAVE NO INTENTION OF COMMITTING

"VOLUNTEERS" TO THE FIGHTING.

4. ADELBERT WEINSTEIN, IN A LONG ANALYTICAL PIECE IN THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, MAKES THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN ELSEWHERE IN SUCH CLEAR TERMS SINCE THE PRESENT CRISIS BEGAN: "THIS AMERICAN POSITION PERMITS THE CONCLUSION THAT IN DANGEROUS SITUATIONS WASHINGTON WILL STAND BY OTHER PARTNERS TO WHOM IT IS BOUND BY TREATY. NIXON'S STATEMENT HAS GIVEN AN EXTRAORDINARY BOOST TO THE AMERICAN CREDIBILITY AS AN ATLANTIC ALLY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE AMERICAN POLICY MAKES CLEAR WHAT DIFFICULTIES THE US HAS WITH ITS FRIENDS."

5. FRG SPOKESMAN VON WECHMAR WAS ASKED AT THE OCTOBER 17 PRESS CONFERENCE WHETHER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COULD CONFIRM REPORTS OF DELIVERIES OF WEAPONS FROM THE FRG TO ISRAEL. VON WECHMAR REPLIED THAT HE COULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY SUCH REPORTS AND THAT HE WAS NOT INFORMED ON THE SUBJECT. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, NO WEAPONS FROM THE BUNDESWEHR WERE GOING TO ISRAEL. HILLENBRAND

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, WAR, MILITARY ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BONN15060
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731027/aaaaatzq.tel
Line Count: 191
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2001 by phillir0>; APPROVED <28-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG PRESS ON MID-EAST WAR SUMMARY: OCTOBER 17 EDITIONS OF ALL MAJOR DAILIES
TAGS: PFOR, GE, XF, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005